

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4269
USMISSION USBERLIN

S E C R E T BONN 21286

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PORS, BQG

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO PERMIT ARMING OF PRIVATE BODYGUARDS IN
BERLIN

REFS: (A) USBER 3152 (B) USBER 3051 (C) USBER 3045

1. THE SUBJECT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED TRIPARTITELY ON
SEVERAL OCCASIONS BY THE ALLIED BONN GROUP REPS SINCE
RECEIPT OF REFTEL (C). USBER'S PROPOSAL THAT THE REQUEST
BE CONSIDERED SYMPATHETICALLY, IN SPITE OF BRITISH AND
FRENCH OPPOSITION IN BERLIN, HAS FOUND FAVOR WITH ALL
THREE BONN GROUP REPS. WE HAVE THEREFORE ATTEMPTED TO
DEVISE A SUGGESTED APPROACH WHICH WOULD ENSURE THAT THE
BODYGUARDS EMPLOYED BY SPRINGER, IF THEY ARE TO BE
ARMED, WOULD BE BROUGHT UNDER SOME FORM OF POLICE
UMBRELLA. UK REP (EYERS) EXPLAINED HIS DIFFERENCE OF
VIEW WITH THE BRITISH MISSION IN BERLIN BY SAYING THAT
IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO SPRINGER, THE ALLIES SHOULD
NOT BE IN A POSITION TO BE BLAMED FOR HAVING DENIED
HIS REQUEST FOR PROTECTION. WE HAVE NOTED THAT HIS RE-
QUEST DOES NOT HAVE THE SENAT'S SUPPORT AND THE VIEW
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HERE IS THAT WE SHOULD NOT PRESS TO PERMIT PRIVATE
BODYGUARDS TO BE ARMED IN THE FACE OF STRONG SENAT OP-
POSITION. HOWEVER, IT WAS AGREED THAT IF WE CAN DEVISE
A SUITABLE APPROACH WHICH THE ALLIES CAN ACCEPT AND
SUGGEST TO THE SENAT, THE ALLIES WILL HAVE SHIFTED ANY
RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS NON-IMPLEMENTATION TO THE SENAT.

2. THE SUGGESTED APPROACH, IN OUTLINE FORM (WE ASSUME THE MISSIONS MAY HAVE OTHER PROVISIONS TO SUGGEST AND WILL FLESH OUT ANY NECESSARY DETAILED PROCEDURES), IS AS FOLLOWS:

(A) THE EMPLOYER WOULD SUBMIT THE NAMES OF PERSONS EMPLOYED OR TO BE EMPLOYED BY HIM AS ARMED BODYGUARDS TO THE POLICE. THE POLICE WOULD REVIEW THE APPLICANTS' SUITABILITY AND FITNESS.

(B) THE POLICE WOULD RECOMMEND SUITABLE CANDIDATES, WHO ARE WILLING TO JOIN THE FREIWILLIGE POLIZEI, TO THE ALLIES FOR APPROVAL.

(C) THE ALLIES WOULD MAKE THE FINAL DECISION, CONDITIONED ON ACCEPTANCE INTO THE FREIWILLIGE POLIZEI.

3. ALTHOUGH NOT SPELLED OUT IN THE FOREGOING OUTLINE, WE ASSUME THAT THE POLICE AND THE ALLIES WOULD ALSO DECIDE WHETHER THE THREAT TO AN INDIVIDUAL JUSTIFIED THE EMPLOYMENT OF BODYGUARDS. IT IS ALSO INTENDED THAT THIS PROCEDURE WOULD ONLY ALLOW FOR AN INDIVIDUAL TO EMPLOY BODYGUARDS, NOT TO CARRY ARMS HIMSELF, SO THE REQUEST TO PERMIT JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS TO CARRY ARMS (REF A) COULD BE KEPT SEPARATE. NOR WOULD IT RESULT IN THE CREATION OF A BAND OF BODYGUARDS HOLDING THEMSELVES
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OUT FOR GENERAL HIRE SINCE THE PERMISSION AND THE SPECIFIC EMPLOYMENT WOULD BE INTERDEPENDENT. FINALLY, THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE BODYGUARDS JOIN THE FREIWILLIGE POLIZEI WOULD BE FOR THE PURPOSE OF BRINGING THEM UNDER SOME KIND OF POLICE UMBRELLA. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS WHICH MEMBERS OF THE FREIWILLIGE POLIZEI MUST MEET. STIFF REQUIREMENTS, SO LONG AS THEY ARE NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO MEET, SERVE THE PURPOSE OF DISCOURAGING THE PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS IN PRIVATE HANDS WHILE MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR THOSE WHO NEED PROTECTION BEYOND THAT AFFORDED BY THE POLICE TO OBTAIN IT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE USBER'S COMMENTS ON THIS PROPOSAL AND, SUBJECT TO USBER'S COMMENTS, THE DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL.
STOESSEL

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